THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The National Water Policy lays emphasis on development and managment of ground water resources in sustainable manner. It provides for periodic reassessment of ground water potential on a scientific basis, taking into consideration the quality of water available and economic viability of its extraction.

Methane emission from dams

1618. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Indian dams are the largest global warming contributors due to excessive emission of Methane compared to all other nations;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and whether any steps have been taken to minimize Methane emission from the dams;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) Ministry of Environment and Forests has informed that there are news reports based on studies carried out in Brazil which *inter-alia* includes assessment of emission of Methane from reservoirs of India. The Ministry of Environment & Forests has also informed that this study is without any Indian experimental data and no scientific study, as on date, has been brought out pertaining to Methane emission from the reservoirs of Indian Dams. However, measures in respect of removal vegetation *i.e.* trees etc. from the reservoir area with a view to reduce the emission of Methane from reservoir constitute part of the planning process.

Water-seepage from dams

1619. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government takes precaution to see that the Central Water Commission gives advice to ensure that water-seepage from dams will not harm the weaker sections;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Central Water Commission has ignored such problems after construction of dams;

(c) what corrective steps will be taken to ensure that the poorer sections are not forced to suffer from faulty designs; and

(d) the steps proposed to ensure that the Central Water Commission acts fast to find solutions for such problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Dams are in general designed and executed by the State Government and Central Water Commission (CWC) is charged with the general responsibility of advising the State Government as and when required in their investigations and design.

(b) Since mainly State Governments are the owners of the dams, the responsibility of their safety and maintenance rests with them. The role of Central Government is confined to giving advisory services with regard to safety and rehabilitation of such dams.